

# PSALM 32 *God's Forgiveness*








Only 11 verses. Theme: *Experiencing God's forgiveness leads to worship.*

Prayer

## Topics

- Understand the Context (PSALM 32)
- JOY (PS. 32:1-2)
- FORGIVENESS (PS. 32:3-5)
- INSTRUCTION (PS. 32:6-11)
- \* KEY DOCTRINE: God's Purpose of Grace

## Source Attribution

Personal Study Guide   
Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible   
Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary   
Bible Verses (CSB)   
Supplementary Sources/Commentary   
Video / Slide  / 

## Set the Stage MHCC Summary of Ps 32

- (Psa 32:1, Psa 32:2) The happiness of a pardoned sinner.
- (Psa 32:3-7) The misery that went before,  
and the comfort that followed the confession of sins.
- (Psa 32:8-11) Sinners instructed, believers encouraged.

I will teach  
you the way  
which you  
should go

Psalm 32:8



6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. 7 You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah  
8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

We have no righteousness of our own to plead, therefore must plead God's righteousness, and the word of promise which he has freely given us, and caused us to hope in.

## SUMMARY OF PSALM 32

### UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

#### PSALM 32

Psalm 32 is one of the seven penitential psalms in the book of Psalms (Pss. 6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143). *All of them express the psalmist's remorse, regret, agony, and contrition because of his sin.* Each also contains expressions of the psalmist's confession and repentance accompanied by a *sincere desire to be restored to a right relationship with God.* David wrote Psalm 32. It is possible he did so after he was finally willing to admit his sins of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband (2 Sam. 11–12).

The superscription designates Psalm 32 as a "maskil." This word in Hebrew literally means "enlightened" or "with insight" and is closely connected to teaching and the wisdom literature. With this in mind, David apparently wrote Psalm 32 not only to express grief over his sin and his confession and repentance. He also wrote it so that believers who read it will learn what they need to do when they sin against God. It is for this reason David wrote, "*I will instruct you and teach you in the way to go*" (v. 8).

39 Psalm 32 reveals the foolishness of believers living with unconfessed sin. While they  
40 will not lose their salvation, loss is always the result of sin. Loss of intimacy with Christ,  
41 loss of spiritual direction, and the loss of emotional and physical well-being are all  
42 results that accompany unconfessed sin. The way to restoration and rejoicing is to  
43 trust the Lord who gave His life so that we can be forgiven and cleansed us from all  
44 unrighteousness. As we keep short accounts of our sins with God, we will enjoy the  
45 restoration of sweet fellowship that is the result of His forgiveness.  
46

### 47 READ Summary Points for Psalm 32 on Page 5

48  
49 In 2 Samuel 12: Why did Nathan the prophet say to David:

50 “*Why have you despised the word of Yahweh by doing evil in His sight?*”

51 What do you think was David’s state of mind when writing this Psalm?  
52

### 53 EXPLORE THE TEXT X

#### 54 JOY (PS. 32:1-2))

55 *1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*

56 *2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit  
57 there is no deceit.*

58 Verses 1-2 begin with the theme that carries the message of the entire psalm—the  
59 joy of experiencing God’s forgiveness. We should understand all of Psalm 32 in light of  
60 these opening verses. Both verses begin with blessed.

61 There are *four different Hebrew words denoting sin* in these verses. •Transgression  
62 means a deliberate act of rebellion. The Hebrew word translated •sin is the most  
63 common word depicting disobedience to God in the Old Testament, and it means  
64 failure to meet God’s standard of holy behavior. Next is •iniquity. Most frequently in the  
65 Old Testament, the word serves as a summary word for all sins against God. Finally,  
66 deceit refers to the idea of betrayal or treachery.

67 This list of sins is a comprehensive way of indicating every kind of sin.

68 In verse 1, the word forgiven literally means “to be lifted up, to be lifted off, to take  
69 away.” The meaning is that the Lord lifted and removed the heavy weight of David’s  
70 guilt and its penalty from upon him. The phrase sin is covered means God has removed  
71 David’s sin from out of His sight. The Lord does not look at David as a sinner. In verse  
72 2, the word counts is used for keeping accounts, records of funds, or to credit or  
73 charge to one’s account. The same word is used in Genesis 15:6, “And he (Abram)  
74 believed the LORD, and he (God) counted it to him as righteousness.” Here, the picture  
75 is of a ledger in heaven that keeps a record of one’s sins. David was saying that  
76 forgiven sins are permanently erased from the ledger.  
77

#### 78 FORGIVENESS (PS. 32:3-5)

79 *3 For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*

80 *4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the  
81 heat of summer. Selah 5 I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I  
82 said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my  
83 sin. Selah*  
84

85 While discipline may be difficult to endure,  
86 the absence of discipline would be far worse.

87 **INSTRUCTION (PS. 32:6-11)**

88 *6 Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be*  
89 *found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. 7 You are a hiding*  
90 *place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of*  
91 *deliverance. Selah 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will*  
92 *counsel you with my eye upon you. 9 do not be like a horse or a mule, without*  
93 *understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you. 10*  
94 *Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in*  
95 *the LORD. 11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you*  
96 *upright in heart!*

97  
98 David realized the foolishness of waiting to confess sin to God. He exhorted everyone who  
99 is godly to pray to God immediately for the Lord's forgiveness so that they will not  
100 experience what David experienced. The godly are those who love the Lord and seek  
101 faithfully to obey His Word, while at the same time recognizing their failings and need for  
102 God's forgiveness and reconciliation when they sin. The great waters represent the  
103 difficulties of God's discipline, like David endured when he continued in his sin instead of  
104 confessing and repenting of it immediately (v. 3). By praying to God immediately and not  
105 allowing unconfessed sin to linger, believers can avoid His discipline that can rush in  
106 suddenly like an overwhelming flood. Before they know it, they can be in over the heads  
107 like David was.

108

109

### **The Value of Forgiveness**

110

***God's forgiveness is free to us, but is extremely costly to God.***

111

It was acquired through the death of his son Jesus on the cross.

112

Forgiveness while free, is conditional. We must confess our sins!

113

114

**In Psalm 32, how did David know he was forgiven?**

115

116

1. Because he experienced both a spiritual transformation and relief from inner torment after confessing his sin. This psalm is a reflection after his forgiveness—filled with gratitude, assurance, and joy.

118

119

2. Prophetic Insight

120

As a psalmist and prophet (Acts 2:30), David had a deep relationship with God and discernment of His presence and response.

121

122

3. Holy Spirit's Work

123

While the Holy Spirit was not indwelling all believers as in the New Testament, David did experience the Spirit's conviction and comfort (see Psalm 51:11).

124

125

126

***Forgiven but consequences (sorrows).* Seven consequences: Samuel 12:10**

127

**What was the role of Uriah\* in the Book of Psalms?** (Uriah, a Hittite, is presented as more righteous and loyal than David in the narrative. Uriah means Yahweh is my light.)

128

129

The seven penitential psalms: Confession of sin, repentance, and plea for God's mercy.

130

Bath sheba is a Hebrew name, combining bat (daughter) and sheva (seven or oath).

131

In the Temple of Solomon and in the Church to this day, we pray the seven Penitential

132

Psalms that **David composed in his penitence for killing Uriah.**

133

In repenting of Uriah's death, David drew closer to God than he had been before.

134 **Uriah-Christ. David slew Uriah, but Uriah provides the occasion for David to receive**  
135 **God's mercy. We put Christ to death with our sins, but Christ's Death wins us**  
136 **reconciliation. Uriah appears in the Matthew's genealogy of Christ.**

137 **"David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife"**

138

139 **Why does Matthew's genealogy uniquely include four women?**

140 **Tamar – who posed as a prostitute (Genesis 38)**

141 **Rahab – a Canaanite prostitute (Joshua 2)**

142 **Ruth – a Moabite foreigner (Ruth 1)**

143 **Bathsheba – not named, but identified by her relationship to Uriah**

144 **How does all of this relate to the ministry and death of Jesus?**

145 **Insight: When Jesus was born, what was the reputation of his mother?**

146

147 **What is special about this Psalm?**

148 **It tells us much about the heart and relationship of David to God.**

149 **It is special because it celebrates the joy and freedom found in confessing sins and**

150 **receiving God's forgiveness, emphasizing the contrast between the burden of**

151 **unconfessed sin and the relief that comes with acknowledging and confessing it to the**

152 **Lord. It is considered a "celebration of forgiveness" and a [wisdom psalm](#), with**

153 **elements of thanksgiving, lament, and trust, reflecting the profound impact of**

154 **experiencing God's grace after sin.**

155

**When David kept silent about sin-**

His suffering

Psalm 32 and 38

1 wasting away - strength has failed

2 groaning- anguished - morning

3 overwhelmed with guilt

4 feeble - utterly crushed

5 festering wounds.

**When David acknowledged his sin**

His peace (Psalm 32 and 51):

1 Happy

2 Rejoicing

3 Singing

4 Delivered

5 Cleansed

156

165

**Comparison of Reign of King David (OT) and Jesus Christ (NT)**

166

167

168

**Treatment of the Innocent**

David: Betrayed Uriah and arranged his death

Jesus: Defended and healed the innocent

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11; Luke 7:22

171

172

**Response to Sin**

David: Repented deeply after confrontation

(Psalm 51)

Jesus: Lived a sinless life; took sin upon Himself

Scripture: Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:21

176

177

**Use of Power**

David: Abused royal authority to cover sin

Jesus: Used divine authority to serve and save

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:9; Mark 10:45

181

182

**Moral Authority**

David: Undermined by personal failure

Jesus: Perfect moral integrity

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:10-12; Hebrews 4:15

**Legacy**

David: Legacy includes both sin and redemption

Jesus: Legacy of salvation and eternal life

Scripture: Matthew 1:6; John 3:16

**Consequence of Actions**

David: Severe family turmoil & public disgrace

Jesus: Bore others' punishment on the cross

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:14-18; Isaiah 53:5

**Relationship to God's Law**

David: Violated commandments

(adultery, murder)

Jesus: Fulfilled the Law completely (Matt 5:17)

Scripture: Exodus 20:13-14; Matthew 5:17

**Kingdom Vision**

David: Ruled Israel with flaws and failures

Jesus: Proclaims a perfect, eternal kingdom

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:12-16; Luke 1:33

## Summary Points of Psalm 32

183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229

### 32:1 Of David. A Maskil

#### **Beginning of the summary**

*Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

We must be honest about our sin.

The Lord does not count against them and in *whose spirit is no deceit*.

We must be honest about our sin.

### 2. Happy we are forgiven

*How blessed is the man whose iniquity Yahweh will not take into account,*

*And in whose spirit there is no deceit!*

### 3. David's confession testimony

when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

### 4 God's hand of conviction

Day and night your hand was heavy on me;

my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

### 5 David finally confesses

then I acknowledged my sin to you and I did not cover up my iniquity.

I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Yahweh. And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

### 6 Aha! What David learned

6 Therefore, let every holy one pray to You at a time when *You* may be found;

Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

### 7 David rejoices at being set free

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble

and you will surround me with songs of deliverance.

### 8 God speaks to us

I will give you insight and teach you in the way which you should go;

### 9 God: Your role is to come to Me.

Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding,

### 10 David encourages us to trust God

Many are the sorrows of the wicked, But he who trusts in Yahweh,

lovingkindness shall surround him.

### 11 Find God's Forgiveness and Rejoice

Be glad in Yahweh and rejoice, you righteous ones;

And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart

## Application of Psalm 32

230

231 **1. The Blessing of Confession:**

232 **The psalm highlights that true blessedness and happiness are found in having one's**  
233 **transgressions forgiven and sins covered, encouraging genuine and humble**  
234 **confession to God.**

235 **2. The Burden of Unconfessed Sin:**

236 **David shares his personal experience of how unconfessed sin brings immense**  
237 **suffering, manifesting as physical and emotional distress, emphasizing the corrosive**  
238 **nature of hidden guilt.**

239 **3. The Power of Forgiveness and Restoration:**

240 **By confessing sin, individuals experience the joy of God's forgiveness and restoration,**  
241 **leading to a release from guilt and shame, and a renewed sense of peace.**

242 **4. God's Protection and Guidance:**

243 **The psalm teaches that those who trust in the Lord are surrounded by His steadfast love**  
244 **and are offered protection and guidance, becoming a hiding place in times of trouble.**

245 **5. Instruction to Avoid Stubbornness:**

246 **David encourages a willing turning to God in confession, warning against being like a**  
247 **stubborn animal that requires forceful restraint, urging a conscious choice to embrace**  
248 **God's instruction and counsel.**

249 **6. A Call to Rejoice:**

250 **The psalm concludes with a powerful exhortation to rejoice and shout for joy in the**  
251 **Lord for the gift of forgiveness and the assurance of His unfailing love.**

252 **7 We can celebrate God's forgiveness knowing that**

253 **He no longer counts our sins against us.**

254 **8 We can turn to God when we are burdened by our sins and count on His forgiveness.**

255 **9 Believers are to tell others how they can experience God's forgiveness.**

256

257 **A Prayer of Salvation and Thanksgiving**

258

259 **Let's bow in prayer.** Our father it's a wondrous reality to look at this psalm understand the heart of David.  
260 David was the original inspired author who comes to bring a broken heart, a heart of confession, because  
261 when he was silent the guilt was overwhelming. He was groaning. He felt oppressed his life seemed to be  
262 ebbing away and then he acknowledged his sin. He uncovered it before you. He confessed it and you  
263 forgave it.

264 That's why he begins the psalm how blessed is he whose transgression ss forgiven. Whose sin is covered  
265 and we understand and we thank you that you led us to repentance and faith in Christ. We thank you that  
266 there was a time in our lives when we were under the oppression the power the dominating force of sin, but  
267 we were delivered and now we like the psalmists are surrounded with the songs of Deliverance, the songs  
268 of salvation.

269 It's wonderful to go in this Psalm from the agony of guilt - to the joy of forgiveness as the Psalmist ends  
270 with rejoicing in gladness and shouting for joy. Because of the Salvation that has come to him and we  
271 have the same exact response to the Saving Grace that you've extended to us through the gospel in Christ  
272 Jesus our lord. We thank you for the forgiveness of sin. We thank you that we no longer are under  
273 condemnation or judgment. We have been set free from the penalty of the law we have been freed from the  
274 Total Domination of sin. One day we will be delivered from its very presence.

275 Thank you for our Salvation. It is because of it that we sing and offer our praise to you. We ask Oh Lord  
276 that you would continue to cleanse us from all unrighteousness that is infecting holiness as we obey your  
277 word that is our prayer and our desire we pray in the name of our savior. Amen.